

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on August 23, 2004. Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 12-16, 18, 20-23 are amended. Claims 1-23 are pending.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-23 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to recite method steps. The claims are amended herein to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as a claimed recitation of use, without setting forth any process steps, is an improper definition of a process, and therefore an improper process claim. The claims are amended herein to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Amended Claims

Claim 1 is amended to specify steps of the method, in order to overcome the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claim 1 is also amended to specify that, when the length of the vehicle does not exceed the predetermined value, both first and second cleaning tools are used to clean the front and rear ends of the vehicle (see, e.g., Applicants' specification, page 3, first full paragraph).

Claim 7 is amended into independent form and now sets forth an apparatus that conforms to the method of claim 1.

Claims 3-6, 8, 10, 12-16, 18, 20-23 are amended to conform to the amendments made to claims 1 and 7, and to place the claims into better condition for allowance.

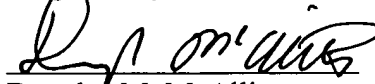
Applicants submit that claims 1-23, which the Examiner has indicated contain allowable subject matter, are now in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicants' silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of an acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application, allow each of the pending claims and to pass this application on to an early issue. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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